

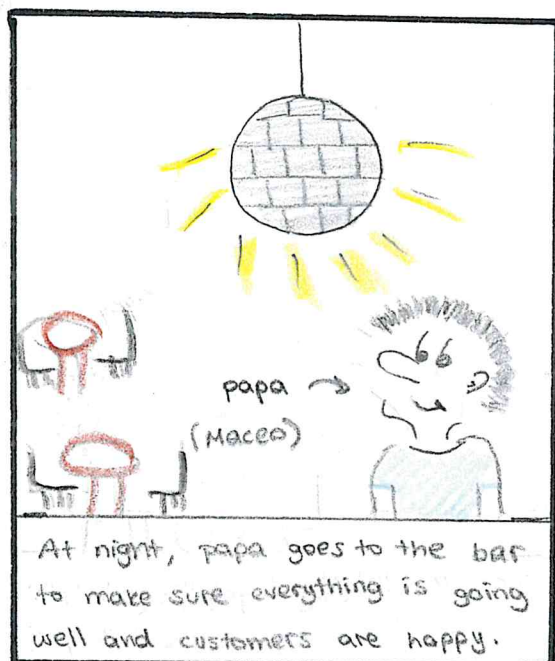
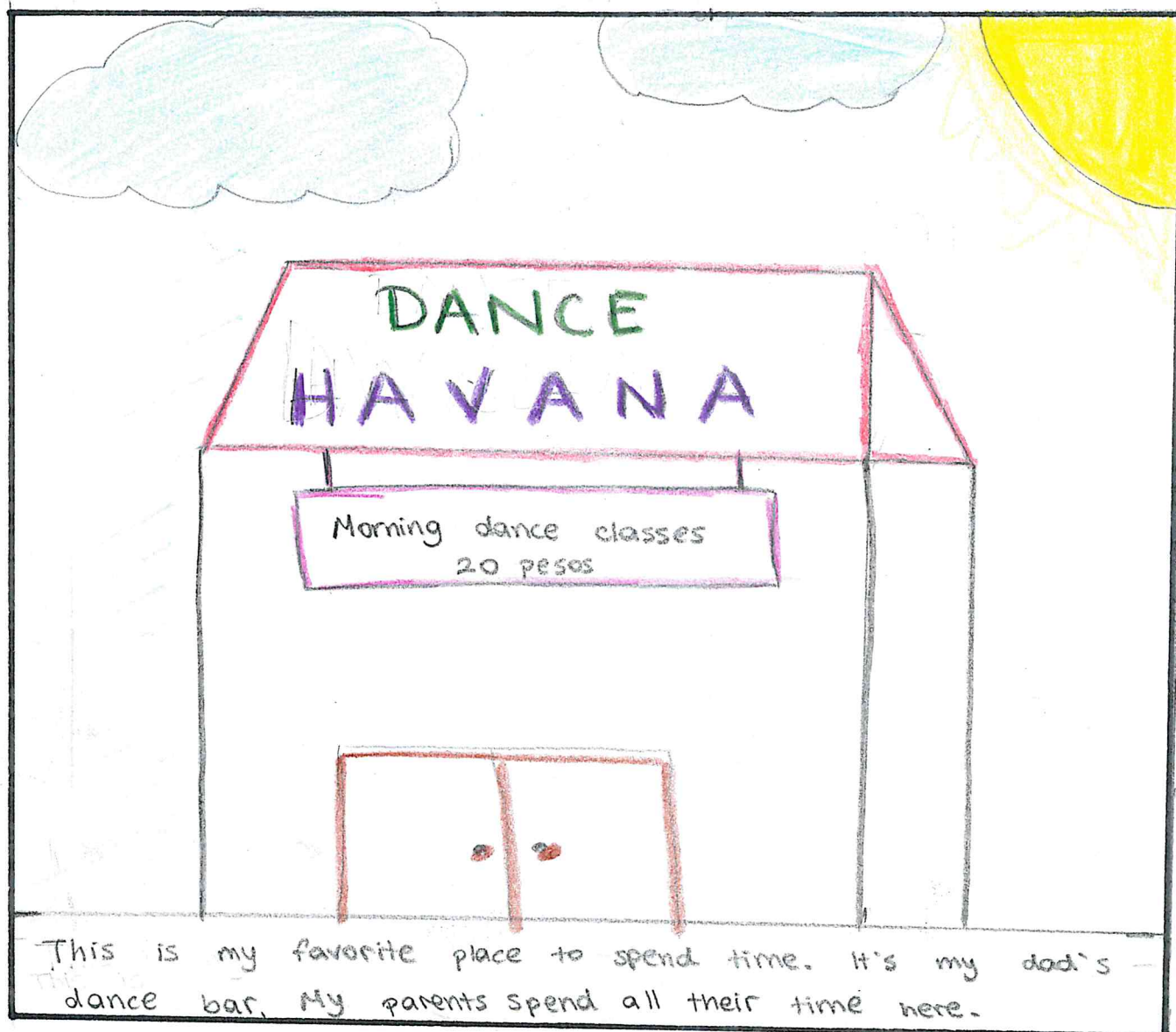


ALVARO's CUBA

by: Deniz Uzun

10B English 2018-19





Me and papa are good dancers too, mama started teaching me by the time I was 3.



This was me when I was 5.



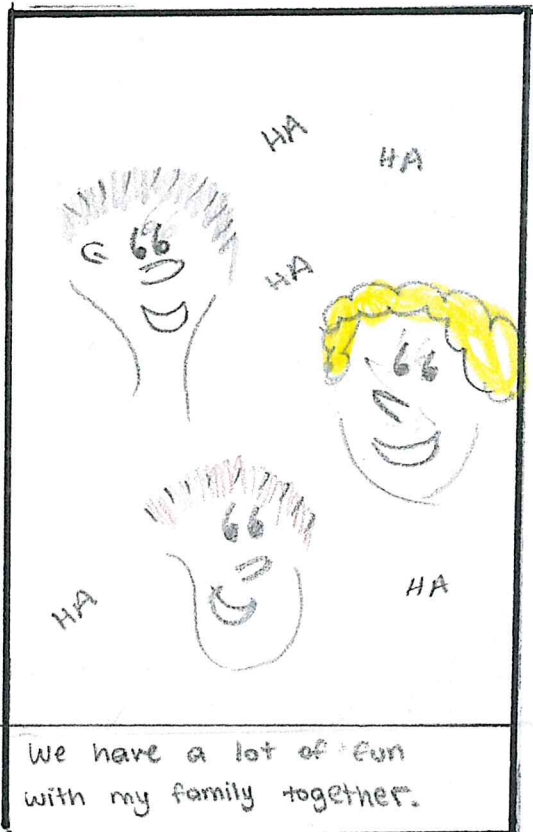
This was me when I was 9.



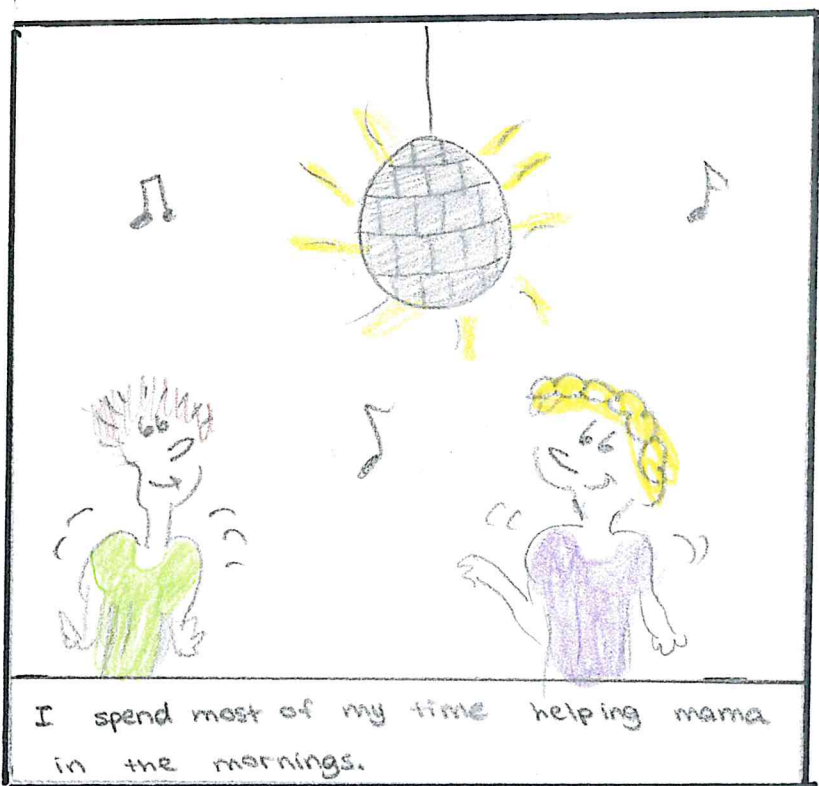
This is me now.

Mi cariño has grown up so much! I can't believe you're 11.





We have a lot of fun with my family together.



I spend most of my time helping mama in the mornings.

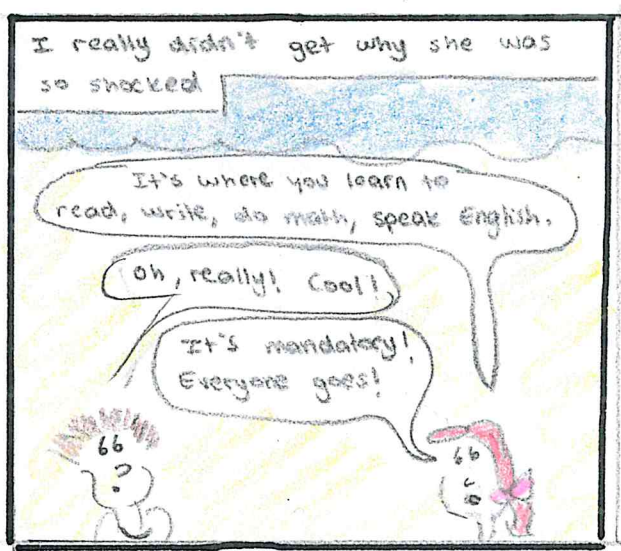
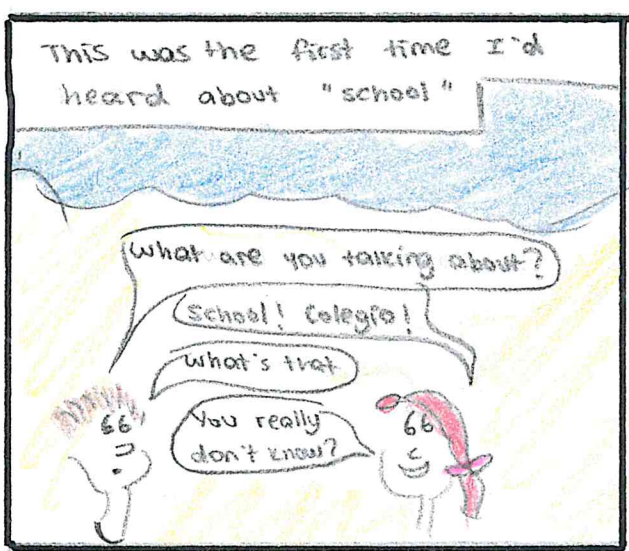


Sometimes I prefer to stay home and play with Diego, my best friend.



When you live in Havana, you are never bored.





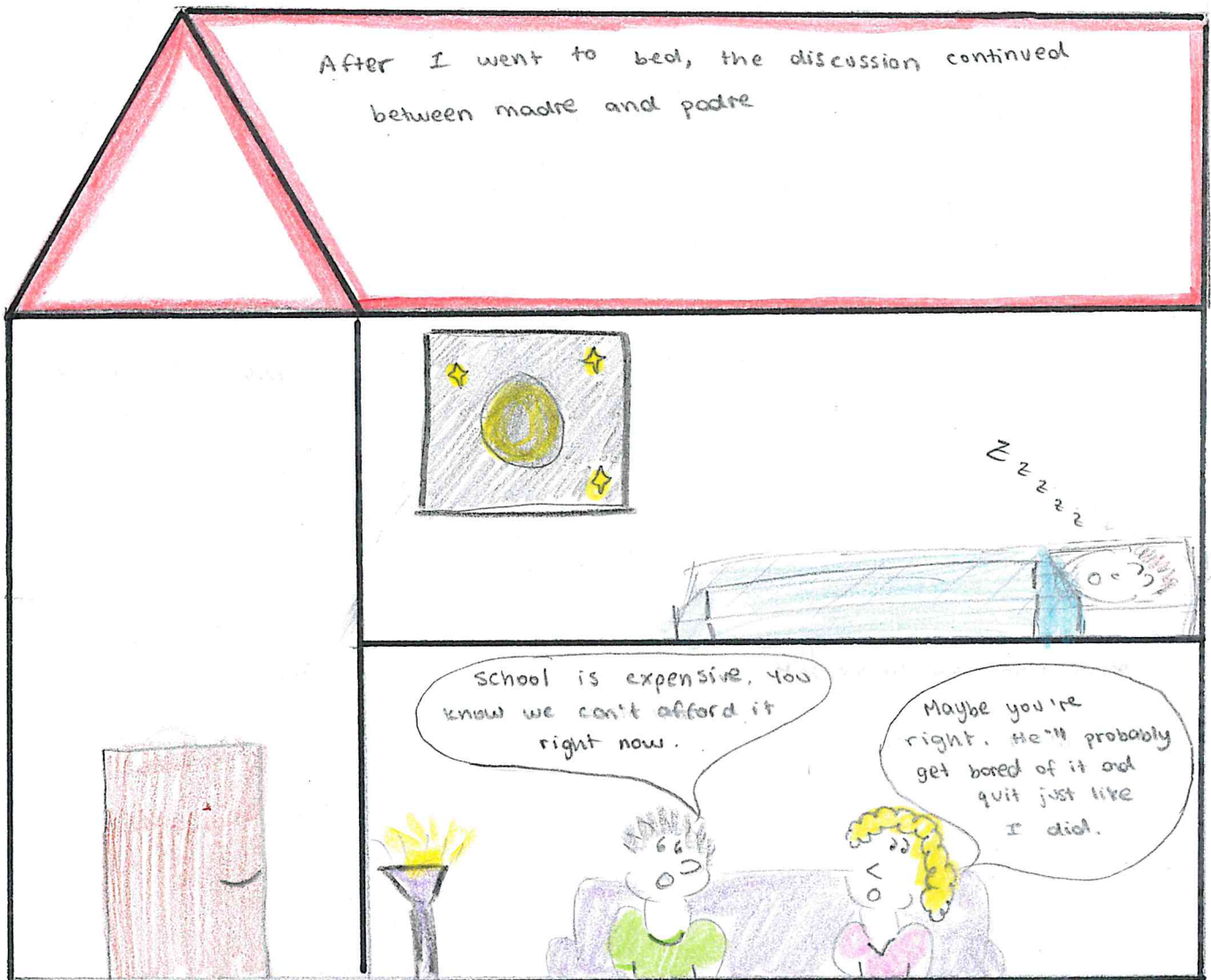
That night when I went home,
I told my parents about my
conversation with Juliana.

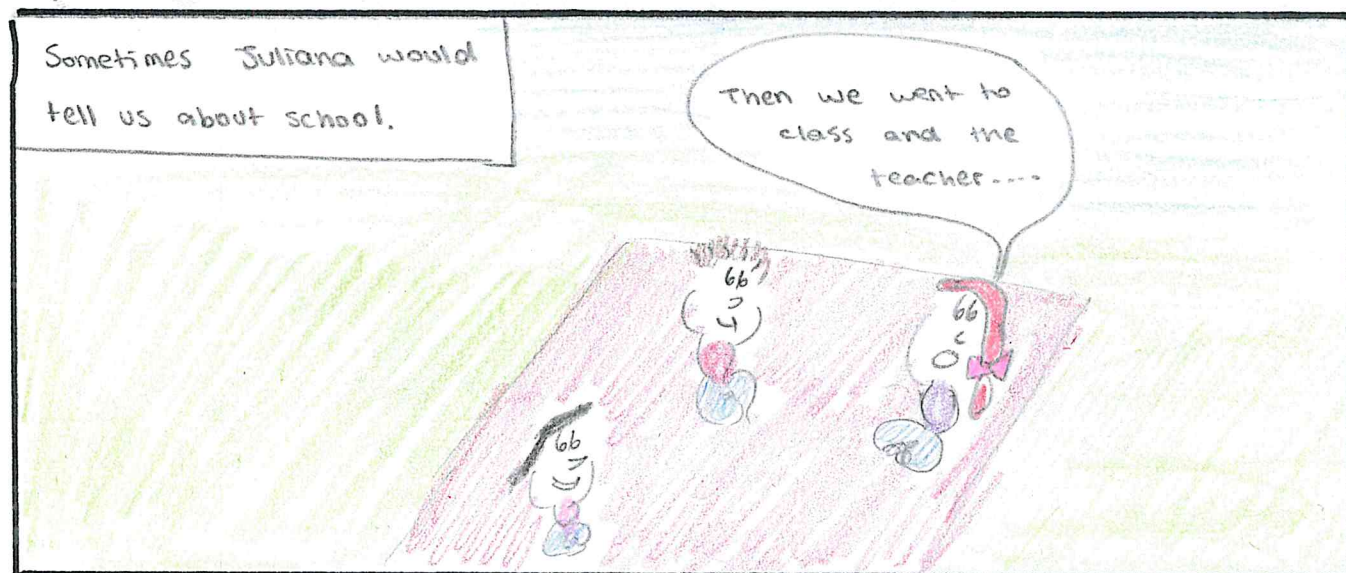


we had a long discussion
that night.

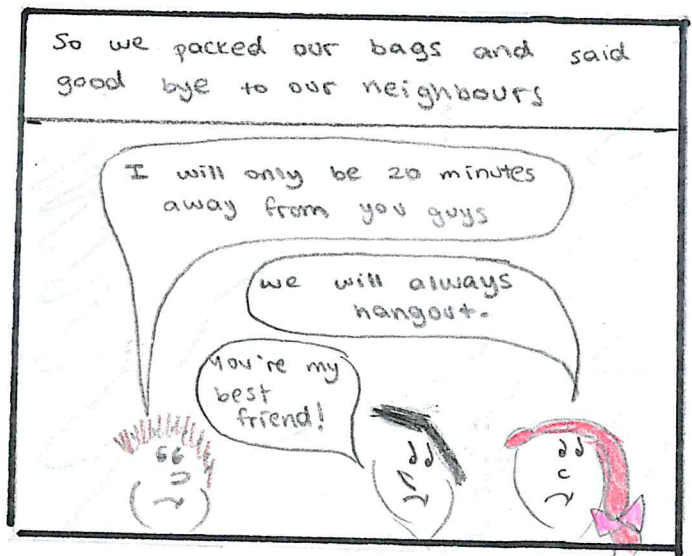
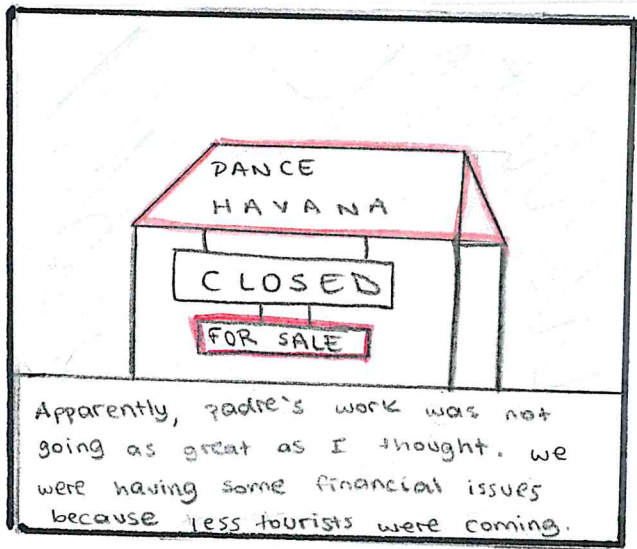
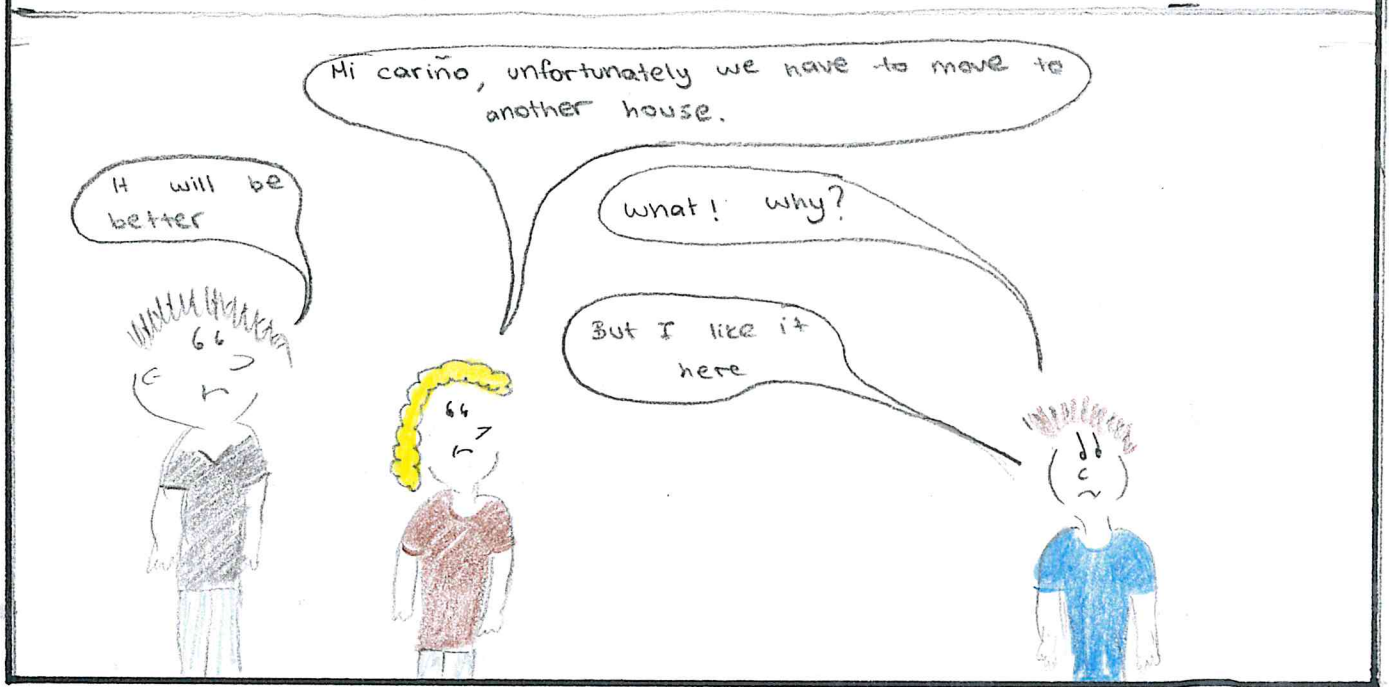


After I went to bed, the discussion continued
between madre and padre

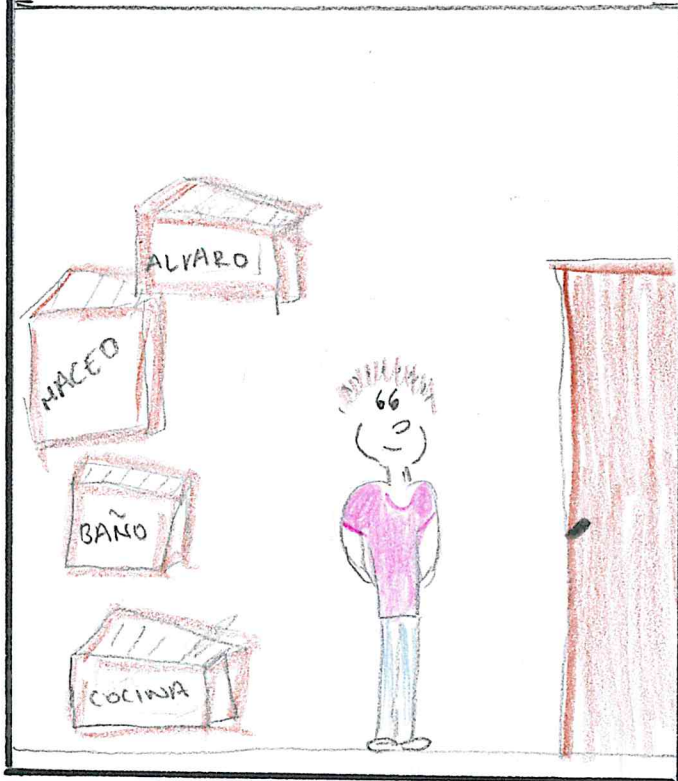




one day mama and papa came to my room. They looked upset.



As soon as we saw the interior of the house, I headed out to meet the kids in my neighbourhood, so that we could play baseball or soccer.

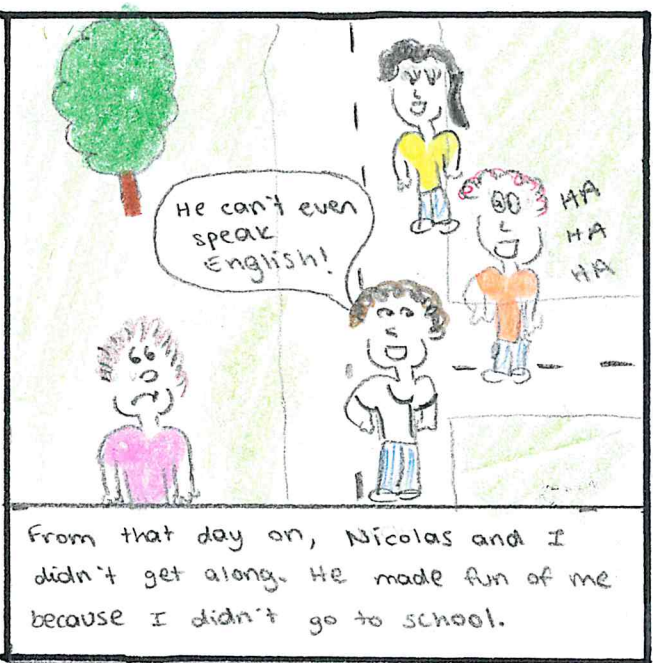
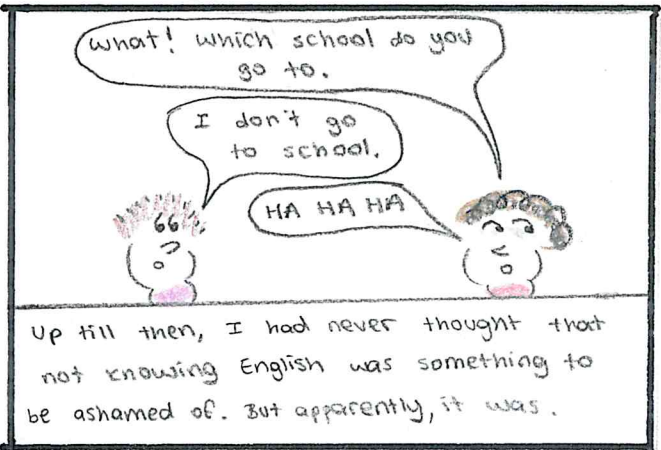
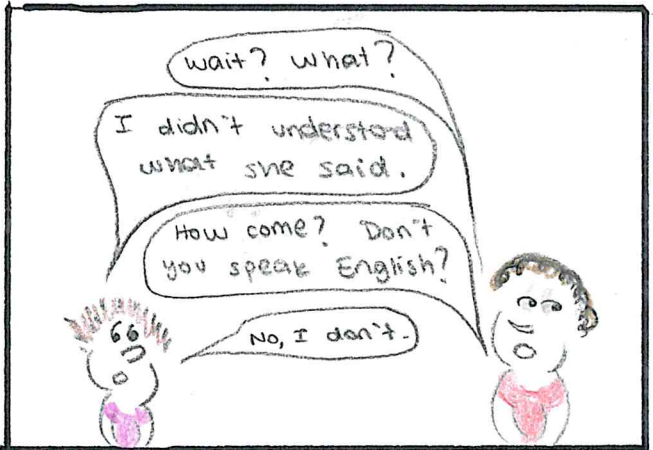


However, nobody was around. All the kids in my neighbourhood were at school. So, I waited...

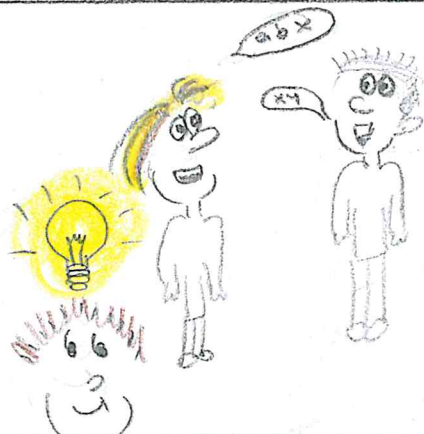


After some time, a few kids came to the neighbourhood. I was very excited to meet them.





one day, I saw one of our older neighbours, Sofia, speaking in English with someone on the street.



Hi! Do you speak English?

Oh, hi! Alvaro, right?

Yes, sorry.
How are you?



Right then, I had the great idea of asking her to teach me English.

Fine, thank you. And you?

I'm fine, but you speak English, right?

Yes, I do.

Did you go to school?



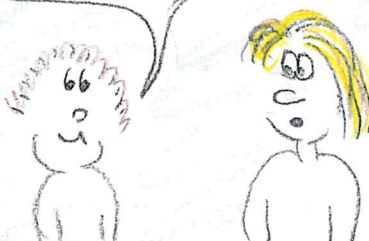
Do you think you have time to teach me some of the things you learned in school? Especially English.

Yes, I did.



Oh... I don't know if I have the time.

Please! I really want to learn. Everyone's making fun of me.



Sofia was one of the nicest people I knew.

After insisting for a while, she was convinced.

Okay, we'll do lessons once a week.

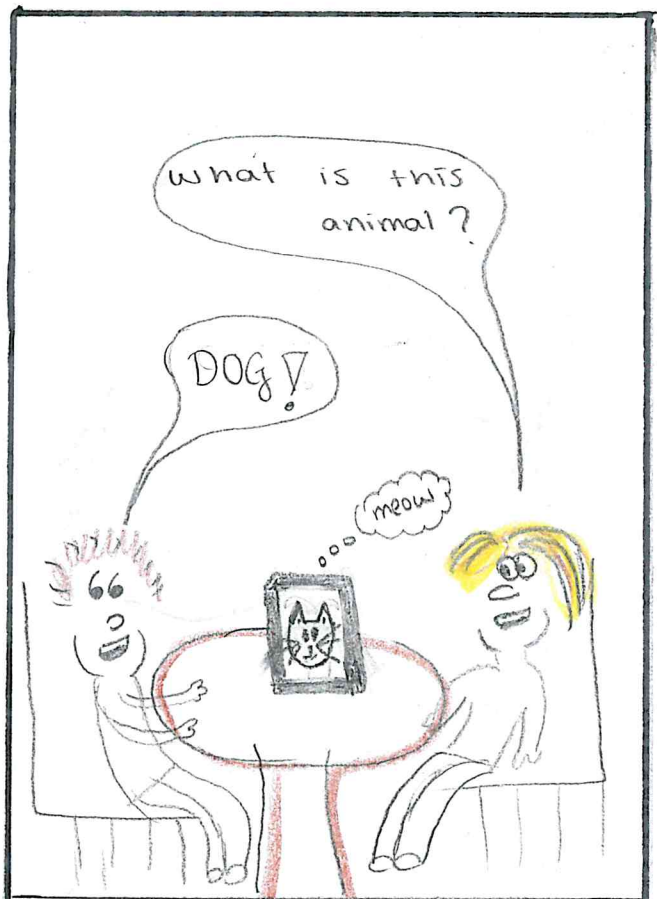
YAY!

YAY! YIPPEE!





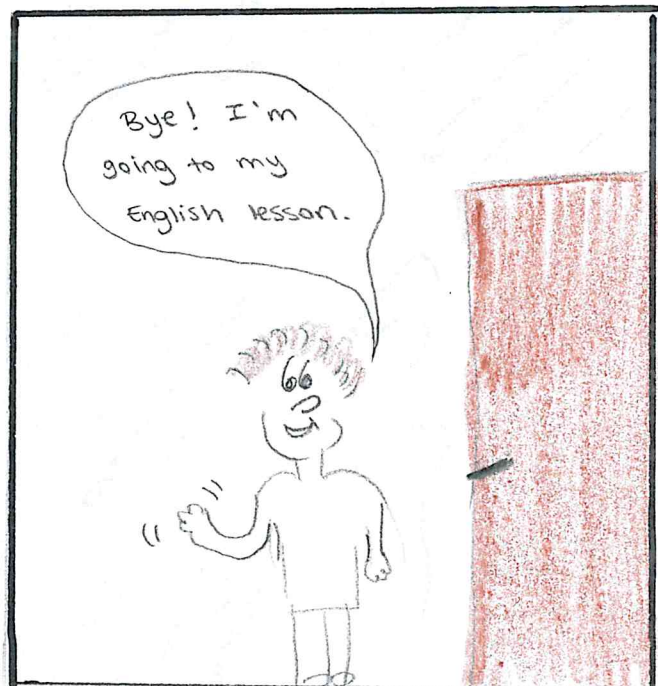
We started with English. I went to Sofia's house on Monday afternoons and she started teaching me.



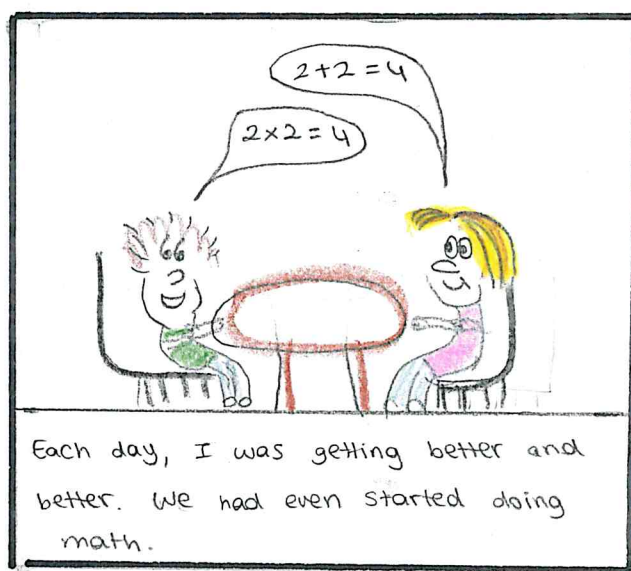
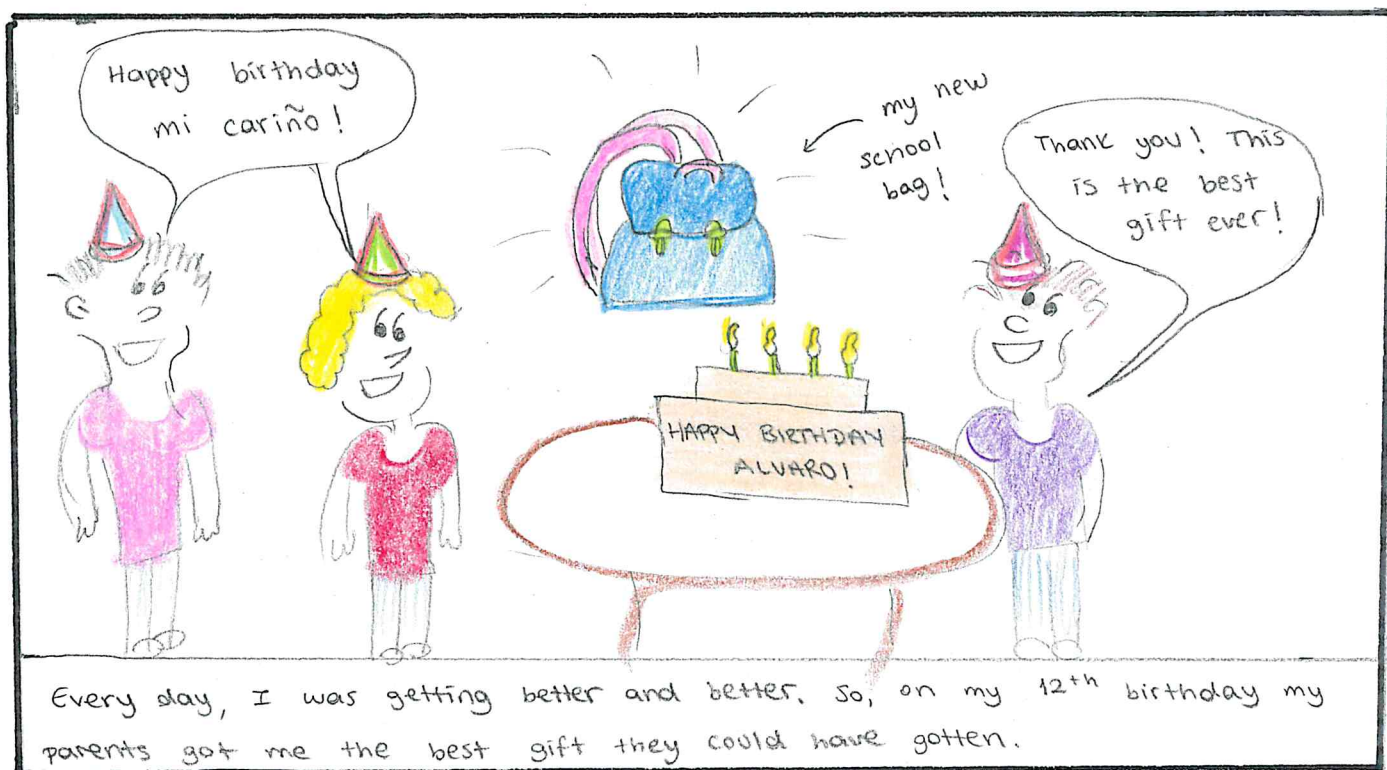
Our lessons with Sofia were going great.



Nicolas and his friends were still making fun of me, but I kept on working with Sofia.



After some time, as I got better, Sofia decided to double the amount of lessons we had. Now, I had lessons on Mondays and Tuesdays.



I still saw Diego and Juliana sometimes and we had fun playing soccer. They were very proud of me.



A FEW YEARS LATER...

One day I was in a cafe, reading an English book when a tourist couple came in



After 3 days of showing them around my beautiful city, they gave me a nice tip. I was so happy, it was the first money I made working by myself.

This gave me a really good idea. I loved my city and meeting new people. Also, I could speak English very well. So, I thought I could turn these into a job.

I should become a tour guide!



This historic figure was made in...

This must be what school is like.



So, I took the money the couple had given me as a tip for being their guide and used it to enroll in a course to become a tourist guide.

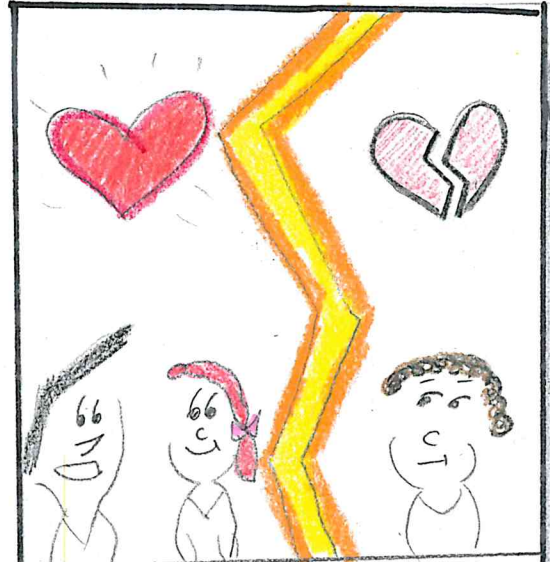
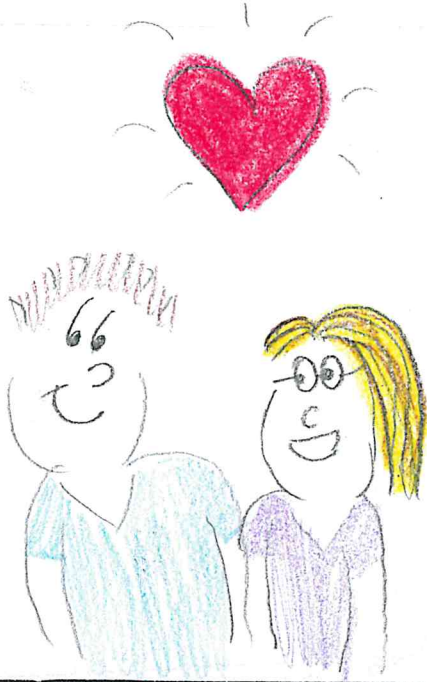
After some time, I got so good at it that I set up my own company.



Now, it's a successful and big business and I even have other guides who work for me.



I owed it all to my great teacher, Sofia.



I partially had to thank Juliana, Diego and even Nicolas. If it hadn't been for them, I wouldn't have asked Juliana to give lessons to me.



Due to my new business, we managed to get our old house back and I still enjoy hanging out in papa's dance bar and helping mama with dance classes.